

*The following statement of support for the Blue Star/Gold Star Flag Act by Congressman Bachus was printed in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2010.*

Mr. Speaker:

When it comes to supporting our troops, it is essential that we as Americans unite as one community.

Our brave men and women in uniform need our support. And so do their families, who live daily with the knowledge that a loved one may be put in harm's way in the defense of freedom.

Since World War I, the Blue Star and Gold Star banners have been a way for families – and the communities they live in – to show their consideration and respect for our troops in the field.

My home state of Alabama has very active Blue Star and Gold Star programs. Glenn Nivens of Blue Star Salute in Alabama, Rachel Clinkscale of Gold Star Wives of America, and Marynell Winslow of Alabama Gold Star families represent, as leaders of their respective organizations, the many citizens of Alabama who are tireless in their support of our troops and their families.

Whenever I see those powerful banners – and in fact, I've had the honor of being presented with a Blue Star banner which I proudly display in my office – I always reflect on what it takes to keep America free. This has been the case for generations of Americans.

There should never be an impediment to displaying the Blue Star and Gold Star Banners, whether it is in the window of a house, a business, or in the case of this legislation, a condominium unit. Some of my colleagues may remember that in 2005, we passed similar legislation also referred to the Financial Services Committee that protected the display of the U.S. Flag.

If anything, we should be promoting greater participation in the Blue Star and Gold Star programs as a way to show appreciation for our troops and our solidarity with their families.

The Sixth Annual Blue Star Salute will be held at the American Village in Montevallo in my district on Memorial Day. It would be a great pleasure to report to them that the House of Representatives has voted strongly to support the freedom of our families to proudly display the Blue Star and Gold Star Banners.

I yield back the balance of my time.